



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 24, 2007



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District of Arizona*

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MEXICAN CITIZEN SENTENCED TO 21 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR WEAPON AND DRUG VIOLATIONS

TUCSON – Eleazar Insunza-Flores, 42, of Sinaloa, Mexico, was sentenced here today to 21 months in federal prison by U.S. District Judge David C. Bury. Insunza-Flores pleaded guilty on February 7 to the charges of Alien in Possession of a Firearm and Possession with Intent to Distribute 73 kilograms of Marijuana.

On September 25, 2006, federal agents conducted a knock-and-talk operation on a residence in Tucson. They encountered Insunza-Flores, who was living at the residence with his wife and their four minor children. Insunza-Flores agreed to allow the agents to search the residence. Inside, the agents discovered a marijuana processing center in one of the bedrooms. There was no furniture in the room whatsoever, with the exception of a table which held a large commercial vacuum / heat-sealing machine. On the floor of that room was another commercial heat-sealing machine, two scales, rolls of commercial plastic wrap, tape, and eight bundles of marijuana. Inside another area of the residence, which appeared to be an apartment within the home but which Insunza-Flores provided the keys for, agents found a second marijuana processing room with a table, plastic wrap, tape, black canvas bags, and ammunition. In the garage, agents located two additional bundles of marijuana in a freezer inside the garage, and particles of marijuana inside the minivan in the driveway. Insunza-Flores admitted to agents that he was involved in marijuana trafficking and had picked up loads of 200 pounds of marijuana from a parking lot and transported them back to the residence. He was paid \$500 to \$1000 per load. In addition to the evidence related to the drug trafficking crime, agents also located two firearms in the master bedroom of the residence: a Beretta model 84f .380 caliber handgun and a Hi-Point model CF380, .380 caliber semi-automatic pistol. Although Insunza-Flores was in possession of a Border Crossing Card at the time of this offense, he was not legally entitled to possess a firearm in the United States.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution was handled by Jennifer J. Maldonado, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-1776-TUC-DCB
RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-113(Insunza-Flores)

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